

STATE OF ALABAMA

Information Technology Standard

Standard 1220-00S1: .gov Domain Standard

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Information Services Division has developed standard URL naming conventions for agency web sites and email domain names.

2. OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this standard is to advise agencies on the Alabama.gov standard.

3. SCOPE:

This policy applies to all state agencies, boards and commissions that use the primary .gov domain name. This policy does not apply to the Department of Education and other educational institutions using the .edu domain.

4. REQUIREMENTS:

Agencies should immediately adopt the standards established for domain names associated with their official agency websites.

Agencies should migrate to the new standard within twelve (12) months of the date of publication of this standard.

Agencies must submit a written request to the Chief Information Officer for registration of all second-level.gov domain URL designations.

5. DEFINITIONS:

Domain Levels: A domain name is all the text that follows the first period ‘.’ in a host name. A host name is used to locate an entity on the Internet. A host name is part of a Uniform Resource Locator (URL), which is the address of a site or document on the Internet.

First-Level Domain: This would be the “.gov” established by the federal government for all government entities.

Second-Level Domain: This would be “alabama.gov” or “state.al.us” state level domains. Both “alabama.gov” and “state.al.us” are registered through the Government Domain Registration Services to the Information Services Division (ISD).

Third-Level Domain: This level will be appropriate for identifying the departments within Alabama state government. The identification should consist of the department's accepted abbreviation format. As an example, the Department of Finance would be "**finance.alabama.gov**."

Fourth-Level Domain: This level will be used at the discretion of the departments for their department-sponsored programs.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Alabama State Home Page (www.alabama.gov) now reflects the primary URL. The dual URL of www.state.al.us and www.alabama.gov will be kept indefinitely.

6.1 POLICY

Information Technology Policy 1220-00: .gov Domain Name

6.2 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Signed by Eugene J. Akers, Ph.D., Assistant Director

Revision History

Version	Release Date	Comments
Original	09/25/2006	